163.1404USWO

#### **ABSTRACT**

Thermally formed thermoplastic articles can be protected from stress cracking in the presence of stress cracking promoting compounds by forming a shaped article comprising a thermoplastic and a liquid hydrocarbon oil composition. We have found that the liquid hydrocarbon oil composition prevents the stress cracking promoting materials from interacting with the polymeric structure of the stressed container to prevent or inhibit stress cracking in such materials. The methods and compositions of the invention are particularly useful in preventing stress cracking in polyethylene terephthalate beverage containers during bottling operations during which the bottle in contacted with aqueous and non-aqueous materials such as cleaners and lubricants that can interact with the polyester to cause stress cracking particularly in the container base. A process for lubricating a container, such as a beverage container, or a conveyor for containers, by applying to the container or conveyor, a thin continuous, substantially non-dripping layer of a liquid lubricant. The process provides many advantages compared to the use of a conventional dilute aqueous lubricant.

#### (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

### CORRECTED VERSION

### (19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau





(43) International Publication Date 22 February 2001 (22.02.2001)

PCT

# (10) International Publication Number WO 01/12759 A2

(51) International Patent Classification7:

· \_\_\_\_

**C10M** 

(74) Agent: SORENSEN, Andrew, D.; Ecolab Inc., 840 Sibley Memorial Highway, Mendota Heights, MN 55118 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,

TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ. DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR,

LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM,

- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/22190
- (22) International Filing Date: 14 August 2000 (14.08.2000)
- (25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/149,095	16 August 1999 (16.08.1999)	US
60/149,048	16 August 1999 (16.08.1999)	US
09/441,881	17 November 1999 (17.11.1999)	US
09/595,835	16 June 2000 (16.06.2000)	US
09/596,599	16 June 2000 (16.06.2000)	US
09/596,697	16 June 2000 (16.06.2000)	US

- COLAR TO
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ECOLAB INC. [US/US]; Ecolab Center, Saint Paul, MN 55102 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HEI, Kimberely, L., P. [/US]; 2224 30th Avenue, Baldwin, WI 54002 (US). HERDT, Joy, G. [/US]; 11600 Leeward Avenue South, Hastings, MN 55033 (US). MINYU, Li [/US]; 7021 19th Street North, Oakdale, MN 55128 (US). LOKKESMOE, Keith, Darrell [/US]; 14463 Monterey Avenue, Savage, MN 55378 (US). WEI, Guang-Jong, Jason [/US]; 619 Pondview Drive, Mendota Heights, MN 55120 (US). BESSE, Michael, E. [/US]; 7450 Winnetka Heights, Golden Valley, MN 55427 (US).
- Published:
- without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- (48) Date of publication of this corrected version:

2 August 2001

(15) Information about Correction:

see PCT Gazette No. 31/2001 of 2 August 2001, Section II

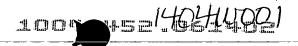
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(54) Title: CONVEYOR LUBRICANT, PASSIVATION OF A THERMOPLASTIC CONTAINER TO STRESS CRACKING, AND THERMOPLASTIC STRESS CRACK INHIBITOR

(57) Abstract: Thermally formed thermoplastic articles can be protected from stress cracking in the presence of stress cracking promoting compounds by forming a shaped article comprising a thermoplastic and a liquid hydrocarbon oil composition. We have found that the liquid hydrocarbon oil composition prevents the stress cracking promoting materials from interacting with the polymeric structure of the stressed container to prevent or inhibit stress cracking in such materials. The methods and compositions of the invention are particularly useful in preventing stress cracking in polyethylene terephthalate beverage containers during bottling operations during which the bottle is contacted with aqueous and non-aqueous materials such as cleaners and lubricants that can interact with the polyester to cause stress cracking particularly in the container base. A process for lubricating a container, such as a beverage container, or a conveyor for containers, by applying to the container or conveyor, a thin continuous, substantially non-dripping layer of a liquid lubricant. The process provides many advantages compared to the use of a conventional dilute aqueous lubricant.



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#### Published:

- without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
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2 August 2001

(15) Information about Correction:

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